

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are currently pending. Claims 2 and 10 are amended. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 and 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections. Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for indication of allowance and provide the following remarks.

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are objected to for informalities. Independent claims 2 and 10 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner states on page 3 of the Office Action that it is not clear what is the difference between the two correspondences, and further that it is not clear how the comparison results in a determination of whether a received request is accepted or not.

Independent claims 2 and 10 have been amended to recite "storing a first correspondence established between a first identifier (ID) to be assigned for each of said host computers and a file identifier (ID) being added to a file to be stored in said first file storage region; receiving said data input/output request sent from said host computer, a correspondence being established in said received request between a first ID of a host computer for use as a sending source of said received request and a file ID of a target file of said received request; comparing said first ID and said file ID of said first correspondence to said first ID and said file ID of said correspondence included in said received request, respectively, to determine whether said received request is accepted or not by checking for a match between the respective IDs; and sending said received request to said first storage control device upon determination of acceptance of said received request as a result of a match between the respective IDs." Applicants submit that the claims are clear in reciting that comparing the first ID and file ID of the first correspondence to the first ID and file ID of the correspondence included in the received request, respectively, to check for a match between the IDs determines whether the received

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Amdt. dated September 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 9, 2006

PATENT

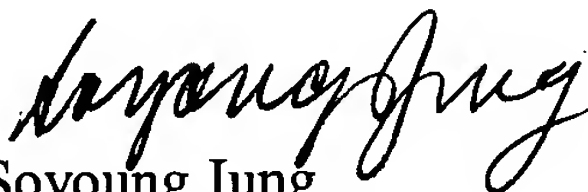
request is accepted or not. This is found, for example, on page 20, line 13 to page 21, line 21 of the application. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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